



DOMESTIC MANAGEMENT GROUP: 7 DECEMBER 2016 MEETING RECORD

Present:	KC	Kirsty Clarke	GBWR National Development Director
	LS	Lee Stutely	GBWR Events & Competition Officer
	PA	Paul Arnold	GBWR Regional Development Officer (South)
	SML	Stuart McLindon	GBWR Youth Programme Manager
	LW	Luke White	GBWR Projects Officer
	SA	Susan Aldridge	GBWR Workforce Development: Officiating
	PZ	Phil Zealey	GBWR Lead Talent Coach
	MN	Mary Nicholls	GBWR Equality Lead
	DH	Daniel Hook	GBWR Corporate & Membership Secretary
	KJ	Keith Jones	Ospreys Wheelchair Rugby Club
	RC	Ryan Cowling	West Coast Crash
	RMD	Rachel McDerby	Marauders Tigers Wheelchair Rugby Club
	SP	Steve Palmer	London Wheelchair Rugby Club
	CS	Craig Streeter	London Wheelchair Rugby Club
	CPe	Chris Perkins	Westcountry Hawks Wheelchair Rugby Club
	VB	Vince Barton	Team Solent Sharks Wheelchair Rugby
	CPr*	Ciaran Pryce	Glasgow Wheelchair Rugby Club
	DD	David Durston	Gloucester Wheelchair Rugby Club
	BO'S	Bob O'Shea	Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Rugby
	SC	Sue Coombs	Dorset Destroyers Wheelchair Rugby Club
	JC	John Colgan	Dorset Destroyers Wheelchair Rugby Club
	DM	Diana Man	Brighton Buccaneers
	LS	Lyn Strong	Brighton Buccaneers

*via video call

1. Welcomes and introductions

- 1.1. KC opened the meeting.
- 1.2. Introductions were given by all.

2. Apologies

- 2.1. Simon Starr, GBWR Regional Development Officer (North)
Amanda Thomas, GBWR Regional Development Officer (Wales)
Lorraine Brown, GBWR Performance Director
The North East Bulls Wheelchair Rugby Club
Rygbi Gogledd Cymru Wheelchair Rugby
Woodbridge Wheeled Warriors
Canterbury RFC: Canterbury Hellfire
Liverpool Lions Wheelchair Rugby Club
Yorkshire Lions Wheelchair Rugby Club

3. Minutes of last meeting

- 3.1. Agreed accurate record.
- 3.2. Final version to be prepared and distributed.

ACTION: DH

4. DMG review

- 4.1. A poor (circa 20%) response rate had been received to the online DMG self-review.



4.2. The importance of the DMG's input was noted and increased participation was invited with the survey to be resent.

ACTION: DH

4.3. Results will be shared when a more representative response rate is obtained.

5. Safeguarding

5.1. Current media climate

5.1.1. A recent update issued to Club Welfare Officers (CWOs) was highlighted, in response to recent media /government focus on sport following allegations in football.

5.1.2. The current focus is on the NGB's ability to manage historical allegations – GBWR has been in contact with directors from the GBWRA, and no issues have arisen.

5.1.3. Any media enquiries should be directed to David Pond, Chief Executive.

5.2. General

5.2.1. Any safeguarding concerns should be reported to David Pond, and questions regarding safeguarding processes should be directed to KC.

5.2.2. GBWR is working with a consultant to reach the Advanced Standard in Safeguarding, and will contact CWOs with regards any training requirements.

6. Funding update

6.1. Sport England

6.1.1. The funding decision is to be announced 15 December and GBWR is confident.

6.1.2. Their strategy is shifting from growth to sustainability, however continued work with SIUs and military centres will allow introduction of wheelchair rugby to those previously active in other sports, ensuring the sport continues to grow.

6.1.3. A separate Sport England grant will be available to bid for in 2017 to further funds available for growth.

6.2. Scotland continues to pose difficulties in working with and identifying funding, however this will continue to be sought.

6.3. Sponsorship is sought for Wales to continue momentum, and GBWR has recently met with Disability Sport Wales.

7. Equality

7.1. A background to equality work was given, outlining the development of equality legislation, the 9 protected characteristics under the 2010 Equality Act, and the different types of discrimination.

7.2. The significance of working towards equity as well as equality in sport was discussed.

7.3. Current work has included the equality survey issued to members, which GBWR will look to incorporate into an online membership process going forward to encourage an increased response rate (currently circa 40%).

7.4. GBWR has achieved Level 1 (Foundation) and Level 2 (Preliminary) of the Equality Standard.

7.5. In working to Level 3 (Intermediate) – thus far achieved by only 10 NGBs – GBWR is required to issue training to specified club officers, and a preference for online training was agreed.

7.6. It was agreed that the Equality Action Plan could be shared with club reps.

ACTION: MN

7.7. The focus on equality is a positive for GBWR and clubs, in providing access to new untapped areas of talent and potential funding sources.

7.8. Positive discrimination was discussed and it was clarified that, whilst it is legal to positively discriminate in favour of disabled people, GBWR would mostly use positive action as a means to level the playing field.



7.9. Discussion was held around the lack of ethnic diversity in wheelchair rugby, and it was suggested that this can be partly explained by club locations / cultural segregation and differing cultural attitudes to disability. Targeting geographical areas where ethnic minorities are more prevalent could help to address current under-representation in the sport.

7.10. Club reps were welcomed to contact MN at mary.nicholls@gbwr.org.uk with any queries.

8. Talent player transfers

8.1. This programme was highlighted as an opportunity for players on the Talent pathway to gain more high level game time, and also to benefit the home teams when players return.

8.2. It was noted that the programme had positive take-up so far.

8.3. The process was reiterated:

- Team contacts PZ / DH with the player classification required
- GBWR advises players available
- Team selects preferred player
- Home team and player confirm approval
- Affected division clubs vote on proposed transfer
- If unsuccessful, an alternate player is proposed

8.4. The programme only permits loans moving a player up a division.

8.5. Feedback is welcomed, with BT Super Series 1 being a 'trial'.

8.6. Internal division transfers were discussed where players have limited court time, however it was noted that a standard player transfer would be more appropriate here.

8.7. Only 1 Talent player transfer permitted per team, unless extenuating circumstances.

8.8. PZ was invited to return to future DMG meetings for updates.

9. Coach communications

9.1. SP raised the issue of teams forming to enter international competition without notifying club coaches.

9.2. It was discussed that players should discuss with their coaches, as part of a positive culture which clubs should convey to players, however it was agreed that the responsibility should fall to clubs to contact clubs rather than players directly – GBWR does not have jurisdiction but can encourage the behaviour by promoting in the newsletter.

ACTION: Club reps / DH

10. Membership rules

10.1. These were agreed, pending updates to reflect all current membership categories.

10.2. CP queried the requirement for bench staff to hold membership where the club holds a separate insurance policy – it was highlighted that the pool place system for volunteer staff was introduced in response to clubs previously highlighting the high costs of registering volunteers who are not present at each session / competition and RMD noted the positive impact this has had on MTWRC, and it was also noted that clubs' insurance policies do not negate the need for membership at GBWR competition where membership is a requirement for participation as staff or player, with non-members welcome in the spectator area.

11. Celebration event

11.1. The proposed Christmas event has been shelved however GBWR is keen to hold an event in 2017 – potentially at the BT National Championships on Sunday following





games so not to interfere with competition and allowing team to return home on the Bank Holiday Monday.

- 11.2. It was discussed that this would likely have limited buy-in however it was agreed that options (with guideline costs) should be developed and proposed to the whole membership.

ACTION: LS / DH

12. Clubmark

- 12.1. This item is to be postponed until the next DMG meeting when a better understanding of the situation will be had.

13. AOB

- 13.1. RC queried updates to the shared calendar, and it was confirmed that this would be updated following confirmation of funding.

ACTION: LS

- 13.2. DD noted that the website has poor iPad usability.

ACTION: DH

- 13.3. LS noted that Google searches for GBWR returned our website with Japanese content, and it was confirmed that this had now been resolved.

- 13.4. LW queried the minimum number of bench staff at a tournament, having witnessed an occasion when a bench may have operated with too few – it was confirmed that the bench must have 2 bench staff and that GBWR staff will be vigilant to ensure this is adhered to.

- 13.5. DM questioned why 4.0 females do not grant the team an additional 0.5 points on-court, and it was clarified that 4.0 players are already outside of international classification and so already grant the team an advantage – it was further commented that the additional 0.5 points on-court were introduced by the IWRF not due to reduce physicality of female players but rather to encourage female participation / inclusion.

- 13.6. SC noted that several key pieces of information were received late, making advance booking difficult – it was discussed that:

- on one occasion this was due to an erroneous e-mail address
- a 4 year plan has now been drafted allowing future information to be issued with more notice
- event information will be issued 1 month prior where possible, although noting that schedules can only be confirmed after the previous weekend to take into account seeding
- Regional Training Centre sessions are scheduled 6 months in advance, and monthly reminders are issued

- 13.7. LS confirmed that Division 3 will compete at Wycombe Leisure Centre in February, whilst the April venue is reserved at Fenton Manor whilst a more southerly venue is sought.

- 13.8. JC and DM noted that they had paid £65 for DBS checks which were anticipated to be free as they were issued for volunteers, and GBWR agreed to investigate.

ACTION: KC / PA

- 13.9. BO'S suggested that Division 3 would benefit from more games with short quarters, with GBWR to investigate options and communicate to clubs.

ACTION: LS

- 13.10. SA noted that GBWR is asking for clubs to communicate with the Strategic Officiating Group when looking to travel with an official, as this will allow the group to identify the most appropriate official and support their development, and this was welcomed by the DMG – it was however noted that this may incur higher costs for



the travelling club, and GBWR will be happy to have conversations around subsidising costs if needed from the start of the 17-21 funding cycle.

- 13.11. SML requested clubs to make contact regarding any potential youth members so that the youth membership process can be started as early as possible.
- 13.12. BO'S congratulated GBWR on the BT National Youth Tournament and encouraged others to attend / volunteer, although did note some reservations around the aggression / physicality of some players.

14. DONM

- 14.1. The date of the next meeting was agreed as 15 March 2017.
 - 14.2. A central / Midlands venue was discussed as preferential, at an alternate venue.
- ACTION: DH**